



Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy
Recorded Statement on the End of the Federal Government Shutdown
January 22, 2018

Hi, I'm Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy, and I'm honored to represent you in Congress.

Today, the Senate and the House of Representatives passed a bill to end the three-day federal government shutdown, and I supported this bipartisan legislation.

Still, I know many of you are frustrated and disappointed there was a shutdown at all, and I share your feelings. That's why I am returning my salary for each day that the government was closed. If Congress fails to do its job, it shouldn't get paid.

Given the magnitude of what is occurring, it is important to observe how we got here and how we move forward.

For me, the lesson is simple. We must put country before party. We must put people above politics. We must unite as Americans.

The current fiscal year began on October 1st, 2017. When Congress is functioning properly, it enacts legislation that provides a full-year budget for the federal government before this date.

But Congress is *not* functioning properly, and therefore we did not have a budget in place.

So, I voted for three continuing resolutions. These are short-term measures that keep our government open, but that everyone agrees are a terrible way to run the government of the greatest nation in the world.

I voted for these three measures—unlike most members of my party—because I wanted to give bipartisan negotiations a real chance to succeed. I wanted to give Congress the time necessary to enact a full-year defense and domestic budget, to provide disaster assistance for places like Florida and Puerto Rico, to fund critical programs like CHIP and Community Health Centers, and to find a solution that enables aspiring Americans known as Dreamers to continue living, working and attending school in this country.

But my patience has limits. By January 19th, it was clear that good-faith, bipartisan negotiations on these critical issues were not, in fact, taking place. That's why I refused to support a fourth continuing resolution.

My vote sent a clear message to my colleagues. We can't keep kicking the can down the road. We must work together for the benefit of the nation we love, and we must do it *now*.

With today's vote, however, I feel more optimistic about the path forward. Under the agreement reached, the government will be funded through February 8th—17 days from now. That gives congressional leaders and the White House the time they need to strike a broader bipartisan deal, *but not a moment more*. The bill also fully funds CHIP, so that millions of kids in Florida and around the country will get the health care they need. As the author of a CHIP bill with 126 cosponsors, I am very pleased with this result.

Let me be crystal clear. I am not interested in attributing blame for the shutdown to one side or another. I only care about finding bipartisan solutions to the challenges we face as a country. I will work with both Democrats and Republicans to get the job done—just as I always have and just as I always will.

Thank you.